

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 2018

By Pam Netherway

Once again The Friends of Tredegar House played Host to the children of Tredegar Park Primary School.

Monday, December 10th 2018 was the selected date and The Servants Hall the venue. 60 children were expected. The Agenda to include entertainment by the famous Mr Chips followed by the Christmas Tea Party and of course, as soon as he could arrange to stable his reindeer safely, a visit to Santa.

Mr Chips, our famous entertainer arrived with his marvellous Magic Show, the Christmas tree dazzled, and all was ready for the children and their teachers to arrive. Once all were seated and comfortable the fun could begin.



After our Chairman, Mrs Judith Rice had welcomed our guests and gave a brief expose of what delights were ahead, we could begin the festivities. With disco lights sparkling Mr Chips and the excited boys and girls danced firstly, to "Baby Shark" which involved a variety of different dance styles, much arm action and plenty of laughter, the fun gave way to amazing magic tricks with Mr Chips, aided by a few youngsters who mystified the audience with wonderful magic. How the children cheered, shouting encouragement to their classmates and roaring for Father Christmas who was due to appear later, after all the good things had been eaten. Now it was time for the tea party, 60 excited children quickly consumed the delicious party food together with plenty of blackcurrent or orange to drink, all organised and prepared by Mrs Gene Mills ably assisted by her fellow Friends of Tredegar colleagues.

At last it was time to meet Father Christmas who presented every excited child with a Christmas gift. A very happy day was had by all.

Another delightful Christmas afternoon to be remembered for many years to come.

YOUR STORIES -

Tredegar House and Park has always played an important part of the life of Newportonians. Childhood days exploring the Park, outbuildings and House feature in some of the queries and stories sent to the Friends. So tell us your story, did you go to school there, play in the grounds or do you know someone who worked at the House?

We will be pleased to share your stories and reminiscences in the newsletter and on the website.

Please contact the Newsletter Editorial Committee with any information you may have. i.e. Judith Rice, Paddy Landers, Annie Parker and Cllr Trevor Watkins.

"Friends" if there are any future Talks you would like to hear please contact either Ruth Knight Talks Co-ordinator on 01633 816695 or Pam Netherway on 01633 680821.



MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN Mrs Judith Rice

Firstly, may I take this opportunity of wishing all Friends and their families a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Christmas at Tredegar House commenced on Saturday 24th November going right through to Saturday 22nd December. The public were welcomed to come in and enjoy the special atmosphere re-created at this time of year of a Victorian Christmas. I understand the House was beautifully dressed with Christmas trees in most rooms on the ground floor and basement even upstairs was opened this year.

But, your Chairman was unable to take part in the festivities this year due to being out of action since September but at long last I am beginning to feel a lot better. So disappointed I could not wear my beautiful Victorian costume and especially sing Christmas carols with Chris Edmunds in the Parlour.

This will be my last message as your Chairman. You will remember that I informed some of you that I would be standing down at the Annual General Meeting on 11th April 2019 having served 4 years as your Chairman.

There will be a huge change in the makeup of our committee after this year's Annual General Meeting as two of our senior officers will be standing down from their positions for various reasons i.e. Chairperson, Treasurer / book-keeper. This will leave a huge gap in the committee and if the Friends of Tredegar House are to continue in its present form then it is imperative that these positions are filled and that we have some new committee members and new ideas. The duties are not onerous as the committee only meet five times a year.

If any member is interested in joining us and would like any further information then please contact your Chairman on Tregwilym206@gmail.com or 01633 894108 or mobile - 07973 523826.

Our Talks Co-ordinators Ruth Knight and Pam Netherway have arranged some really interesting talks for 2019 commencing February 27th Speaker Roger James, subject - The Golden Triangle of India. Commencing at 2.00pm in the Morgan Room why not come along and find out more!!!

A quote from our constitution: "The Object of the Organisation is the education of the public by promotion, support and assistance of Tredegar House, through the activities of a group of Friends.

MESSAGE FROM ANNIE PARKER – Membership Secretary

Many thanks if you have already renewed your membership for 2019, your support is so valuable to Tredegar House.

Our membership numbers are still very healthy, however, to date; there are a number of 2018 members who have not yet renewed.

Should you wish to rejoin this year please contact me by email annie.caerleon@gmail.com or Tele.01633 422693.

Fees are – Single membership £14.00 Joint or Family Membership £20.00

A CHRISTMAS CONUNDRUM – BY MONTY DART

Martyn Evans is a fond supporter of Friends of Tredegar House. Without him we wouldn't have some of the unique photographs in the Servant's Corridor, or Housekeeper's Room. He has also contributed articles about his grandparents Jack (Pop) Evans, who was the chauffeur to Courtenay and Evan Morgan and Hannah, Housekeeper at TH.

However, one of his latest donations is indeed a conundrum. Amongst other artefacts, he discovered a box in a chest of drawers in his late Mother's house. It was labelled 'Lady Tredegar, 43 Grosvenor Square', the handwritten date is February 27th 1939. Martyn had never seen the box before and his Mother had never mentioned it. The box was from Woolland Bros. Knightsbridge, SW1 an upmarket retailer of clothing and haberdashery.

Inside the box, wrapped in blue tissue was a christening gown, with two blue ribbons sewn on it. Nowadays we almost take it for granted that parents can know the gender of a child before it is born. Not so in 1939. So the blue tissue paper and blue ribbons indicate that a baby boy had been born, but whose baby? At that time Princess Olga Dolgoruky had just married Evan Morgan so she would be 'Lady Tredegar' so would Katharine, Evan's Mother, who retained her title as she and her husband Courtenay had never divorced - neither candidates for a christening gown. Was it a present for a devoted servant? Martyn can't link the birth of a baby boy in his family. Family historians, I leave it to you!

More artefacts in the next newsletter.

The gown and other artefacts can be seen at the next Friends of Tredegar House meeting, on 27th February in the Morgan Room commencing at 2.00pm.

AN EXTRACT FROM FRIENDS OF TREDEGAR HOUSE 1990/91 ANNUAL REPORT

1990/91 was a very successful year for purchases, a number of highly important objects being acquired for the collection.

THE MORGAN MEDAL COLLECTION -

In July a collection of 23 medals associated with members of the Morgan family, together with a silhouette of Godfrey, Viscount Tredegar, an ivory coach pass belonging to Sir Charles Morgan (1760-1846) and other memorabilia, were acquired at public auction at Christies, London for £4,840. The Museums and Galleries Commission contributed £2,420 towards the cost.

These medals were awarded to three members of the family: Godfrey Viscount Tredegar: his brother the Hon. Frederick Charles Morgan; and Courtenay, Viscount Tredegar. They range in date from 1855 to 1926 and commemorate the family's involvement in the Crimean War, the Boer War and the First World War. The medals are now on display in the Side Hall.

ON LOAN -

Portrait of the Hon. Evan Morgan, later Viscount Tredegar by Ambrose McEvoy, c1914.

This charming three quarter length portrait of the young Evan Morgan by one of the most successful society portraitists of the early twentieth century is now on display in Evan's former bedroom, the King's Room. It was formerly part of the Tredegar collection.

Lender: The National Museum of Wales.

TREDEGAR HOUSE UPDATE DECEMBER 2018

As we get ready to say hwyl fawr to 2018 I wanted to pause and think about some of the great things we have been up to this year.

We secured whopping amounts of Welsh Government funding towards the Laundry building community project and are bringing a beautiful derelict building back to life.

We partnered with Stonewall Cymru and joined the PRIDE Cymru parade as a team. We've been working on the laundry garden as part of the Woodland Routes to Wellbeing Project, which will be beautiful accessible space for any of our visitors to enjoy.

We joined colleagues and worked hard at Country File Live in the tea room. We surveyed approx. 2000 meters of walls around the property to check how they are holding up! Restored the beautiful painting of Jane Colchester with the help of the Friends of Tredegar House. We've welcomed almost around 70,000 visitors to the house and gardens so far, and they liked it, they really did, just see our social media!

Just to mention a few...

2019 will be no quieter for us and in fact there is a big ask of Team Tredegar as we hope to move forwards with our first phase of the Tredegar House Development Project which will explore how we work with people, our partnerships and welcome, give greater understanding on the conservation back log needs and see us try new approaches to our visitor experience. We will also see the completion of the Laundry Project, the start of the Brewhouse Tea Room renovation and hopefully the relocation of our Garden team. All while still welcoming our fabulous visitors.



THE MORGANS AND THE LONDON CONNECTION – THE OTHER TREDEGAR HOUSE By Rosemary Jackson

Continuing with my exploration of the London connection with the Morgans I walked further along Bow Road from Tredegar Square, leaving behind me Morgan Street, Tredegar Terrace and Aberfan Road, I came to the other Tredegar House.

In 1896 Godfrey Morgan donated Tredegar House a Georgian house on Bow Road as a Nurses Home. Training programmes for nurses were just beginning to be established and under Matron Eva Luckes the London Hospital established a pioneering seven-week course comprising lectures, practical work and an examination at the end.

However in 1911 Tredegar House was deemed not suitable for the new training and an appeal was launched to build a new purpose built home with Lord Tredegar giving the freehold to the London Hospital. This second building was also known as Tredegar House and was opened in 1912 by Queen Alexandra. The building is in the renaissance style - a revival of the architecture of the second half of the 17th century - with brick quoins, stone dentil cornice, timber sash windows and dormers with alternating triangular and segmental pediments. The building had a lecture room, dining room, sitting room and large 'practical classroom' along with bedrooms for 30 probationers and bed-sitting rooms for the sisters. Rowland Plumbe, the architect and Hospital Surveyor, himself contributed £5,000 to the cost of building work

The original building was pulled down. The current one continued to be involved with nurses training and accommodation until 1980 when it was sold and converted into flats. So if you have £610,000 to buy or £360 a week to rent you could live in this Tredegar House.